

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward and Sallie McClain. The distinguished couple has continually put their children, their church, and their community before their own needs. Reverend and Mrs. McClain are examples of passionate parental role models in an age when such models are becoming both more rare and more crucial.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this last April to travel around my home state of South Dakota and visit just a few of the hard-working local charities that would benefit from the Community Solutions Act, H.R. 7. I am continually amazed by the kind hearts of the neighborhood saints who work and volunteer at these organizations. Day in and day out these folks serve the poor, the weak, and the victimized.

I have also been witness to the bureaucratic processes of the welfare state. The question that seems to always work its way into my head is, "why is there such a visible difference between our government services and local organizations?"

First of all, local charities and organizations are efficient. Money is almost always scarce in this line of work, so they must learn to stretch every penny they receive.

Secondly, local charities and organizations are exactly that . . . local. Folks here in Washington can devise a system to deal with the National Substance Abuse Problem, but what works in Canton, South Dakota? I have a feeling those who have lived there know the unique local factors that contribute to substance abuse and can make a difference in people's lives.

Thirdly, local charities and organizations are compassionate. A deep sense of calling can be the only reason why the armies of compassion continue to serve. Their calling shows itself in the care that is shown.

Because of what I have seen and heard from those who work and volunteer at these local organizations, I am convinced that we must take every opportunity we can to support them. And by passing H.R. 7 today, we'll be one step closer to achieving that goal. Through the expanded tax deductions, incentive would be put in place for individuals to give to the charitable groups they deem worthy of their hard-earned income. Any increase in charitable donations is well worth the decrease in taxes the government would receive. Why? Because these groups are performing many of the same duties our government would have to otherwise provide. Let's foster the charitable spirit alive in our constituents and allow all of our civil society the opportunity to serve.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 25 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of a proud organization. On Saturday, July 21, 2001, the loyal and hard working members, contractors, dignitaries and their families of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 joined together in celebration of the largest iron workers' local in the country, a dedicated group of over 4,500 members.

Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 has been a charter member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers since July 18, 1901. They are a local union for bridge, structural, ornamental, reinforcing, rigging, pre-engineered, pre-cast, glazing, fence, siding and decking, conveyor and canopy construction workers. Jurisdiction stretches from the State of Michigan to parts of Canada, however most of the Union's early work displays itself in the city of Detroit. Buildings such as the American Car & Foundry plants, Dime Savings Bank, Broadway Theater, Cobo Hall, City County Building, and the Renaissance Center give testament to their dedication and tireless efforts. They pride themselves in saying "We Built Detroit." I most sincerely agree.

The organization has been a trailblazer for fair wages, benefits, shorter workdays and safety for the trades. Ensuring strength and solidarity in thirty-four counties including both Macomb and St. Clair, Local Union No. 25 is certainly worthy of applause and recognition.

Today, the organization has a membership of approximately 4,500. After 100 years of honorable service, Local Union No. 25 celebrates this remarkable milestone with a grand celebration that I was honored to attend.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 we celebrate the people who have made this organization remarkably successful. I applaud Local 25 for their outstanding dedication, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY invited me to participate in an event in Kansas City, Missouri, that took note of the impending mailing of tax rebate checks to millions of Americans, including 877,000 Kansans, as the result of the enactment of H.R. 1836, which I supported.

For this reason, I was absent during the consideration of H.R. 2216, which made supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present for rollcall 256, which was final passage of this conference report, I would have voted "yes".

July 24, 2001

BREAKDOWN OF INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS SHOWS INDIA'S CONTEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY, PEACE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I think we were all distressed by the breakdown of the talks between India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in South Asia, one of the most troubled areas in the world. The fact that the talks broke down increases the danger and the instability in that region.

It looks as if much of the blame for the breakdown goes squarely to the Indian government. As Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, put it, "It is very clear that India does not want a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue." India's Defense Ministry spokeswoman did not even mention Kashmir among the topics under discussion. Three drafts of a joint statement were vetoed by the Indian cabinet. As you know, the Indian government is run by the militant, Hindu nationalist BJP, a branch of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh (RSS), which has said that everyone in India must be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. The RSS published a booklet last year showing how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in false criminal cases.

India's human-rights violations have been well documented. It has killed over tens of thousands of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and other minorities. It has burned churches, prayer halls, and Christian schools, destroyed the most revered Muslim mosque in India, and attacked the seat of Sikhism, the Golden Temple. It has killed priests and raped nuns. Indian troops were recently caught in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes. This atrocity was prevented by the joint action of Sikh and Muslim villagers. The Indian government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura in March 2000. In 1997, Indian troops broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikhs in illegal detention without charge or trial under the repressive TADA law, which expired in 1995, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. It was routine to rearrest people released under TADA and to file charges in more than one state simultaneously to deter prisoners from contesting the charges. Amnesty International notes that there are tens of thousands of Sikhs and others being held as political prisoners. Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also held as political prisoners in large numbers. A few months ago, the Council of Khalistan called on the political prisoners to run for office from their jail cells. This might be the most effective action that the political prisoners and minority political leaders can take. I call upon President Bush to press India for the release of all political prisoners. Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?

India has murdered Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and other minorities by the tens of thousands. Should the United States be supporting such a country, especially when it tries